

Message Text

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FOLLOWING BONN 14495 SENT ACTION STATE INFO SECDEF
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LUXEMBOURG OSLO OTTAWA PARIS REYKJAVIK ROME NATO BRUSSELS
EC BRUSSELS RPT TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T BONN 14495

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, GW, US

SUBJECT: U.S./EUROPEAN RELATIONS: FRENCH NATO DRAFT

REF: (A) STATE 198193, (B) BONN 13999, (C) USNATO
4602 AND 4706

1. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE FONOFF SOURCE, POLITICAL
DIRECTOR VAN WELL HELD CONSULTATIONS OCT. 4 IN LONDON
WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS HEADED BY WIGGIN; DISCUSSION
FOCUSED ON ATLANTIC (NATO) DECLARATION IN GENERAL AND
FRENCH DRAFT IN PARTICULAR. VAN WELL TOLD WIGGIN THAT,
AFTER INITIAL CAREFUL GERMAN STUDY, FRG BELIEVES FRENCH
DRAFT: (A) REPRESENTS WITH GREAT SKILL AN AMALGAM OF
PREVIOUS ALLIED DRAFTS; (B) IS OF VERY HIGH STYLISTIC
QUALITY; (C) SEEMS TO BE "UNBEATABLE" IN EMPHASIZING

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THE NEED FOR CONTINUED WESTERN DEFENSE EFFORTS; AND (D)

REPRESENTS A STRONG AND MOST WELCOME FRENCH ENDORSEMENT OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. OUR SOURCE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT JOBERT MAY HAVE HAD A PARTICULAR HAND IN DRAFTING THE SECTION INVOLVING WESTERN DEFENSE EFFORTS.

2. FONOFF REP SAID SOME CHANGES WOULD STILL BE DESIRABLE, AS FOR EXAMPLE, REGARDING MBFR. HOWEVER, BONN IS VERY GRATIFIED WITH THE PROPOSED FRENCH DRAFT, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE GERMANS CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO AVOID THE "14 ALLIES" FORMULATION FAMILIAR IN NATO MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE. ACCORDINGLY, FRG NATO DEL HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO GIVE STRONG SUPPORT TO FRENCH DRAFT AS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL BASES FOR DISCUSSION.

3. IN FACT, WE ARE TOLD THAT VAN WELL SAID TO THE BRITISH THAT, WITH ONLY A FEW CHANGES, THE FRENCH DRAFT COULD BE ACCEPTABLE IN ITS PRESENT FORM. OUR SOURCE SAID THE BRITISH REPLIED BY ALSO PRAISING THE FRENCH PROPOSAL, BUT ADDED THAT THEY HAD NOT STUDIED IT SUFFICIENTLY TO TAKE A DEFINITIVE POSITION.

4. FONOFF REP, WHO IS THE SAME OFFICIAL MENTIONED IN REF B, SAID THE GERMANS HAD NOTED THE INTENTION VOICED TO THEM LAST WEEK IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON BY SENIOR US OFFICIALS TO PRESENT A US CONTRIBUTION; THEY HAD ALSO BEEN INFORMED OF STATEMENTS TO OTHER ALLIES, INCLUDING THE CANADIANS AND THE TURKS, ON THIS SCORE. NONETHELESS, OUR SOURCE SAID BONN REMAINED UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER THE US CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE IN TERMS OF AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING DRAFTS OR A NEW FULL TEXT. BOTH FOR REASONS INDICATED IN REF B AND OUT OF CONCERN TO AVOID DELAY, BONN HOPED THE US WOULD BE INCLINED TO OFFER AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING DRAFTS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY THE CASE GIVEN THE NEW "EXCELLENT" FRENCH DRAFT. EMBOFF SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE FORM OF THE USNATO CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE BUT EXPECTED THAT A DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN SOON. COMMENT: FRG REFERENCES TO US CONTRIBUTIONS, NOTED REF C, MAY RELATE TO INFORMATION GERMANS COULD HAVE PICKED UP FROM TURKS OR CANADIANS, OR, PER-

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HAPS EVEN MORE LIKELY, TO THEIR OWN REVIEW OF OBVIOUS TACTICAL ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE TO US IN THIS AREA. IN THAT CONNECTION, IT MAY BE NOTED THAT FONMIN SCHEEL DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT IN OTTAWA WITH SHARP FOLLOWING LATTER'S BILATERAL WITH THE SECRETARY IN NEW YORK. HILLENBRAND
UNQUOTE RUSH

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